GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2824
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
SPECIALISED AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIONS
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create an agency on the lines of Japan International Cooperation Agency and South Korean International Cooperation Agency for handling development aid;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes. Pursuant to the announcement of Finance Minister in his budget speech for FY 2007-08, setting up of an autonomous agency is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The proposed Agency is envisaged to have under its mandate the entire range of existing activities relating to India's overseas development cooperation including disaster and humanitarian relief assistance and Lines of Credit to developing countries in the spirit of South-South cooperation. The agency will seek funds from MEA's budget as required.

(c) The proposed agency is envisaged as an effective mechanism and umbrella institution for implementing the entire range of Government of India's overseas development assistance.